

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A film covered electric device comprising:  
an electric device element to which a positive pole lead and a negative pole lead are connected; and  
a casing film comprising a thermally sealable resin layer wrapped around said electric device element such that the leads extend from at least one side of the film, the casing film having a thermally sealed area in which opposing surfaces of the film are thermally sealed around said electric device element,  
wherein said casing film has a cup area for receiving said electric device element therein, whereby a thermally sealed area is positioned outside of the cup area, and disposed within a range of the thickness of the electric device element,  
at least one of the sides of said thermally sealed casing film, from which said leads are not extended, is formed with a contact zone between the thermally sealed area and the electric device element, in which opposing surfaces of the casing film are directly opposing without intervention of said electric device element and are in contact with each other without being thermally sealed,

a length L2 of the contact zone in a direction along parallel to a side of the electric device element is at least half of a length L1 from one end to the other end of an inner edge of said thermally sealed area on the side formed with the contact zone, in a direction parallel to L2, and

an angle formed by the surfaces of the casing film opposing each other in the contact zone is ~~substantially~~ held at substantially zero degrees at a root of the thermally sealed area.

2. (currently amended): The film covered electric device according to claim 1, wherein said contact zone is formed at a position including a center of a range from one end to the other end of an inner edge of said thermally sealed area on the side formed with said contact zone in the direction along parallel to a side of the electric device element.

3. (currently amended): The film covered electric device according to claim 2, wherein said contact zone is formed over the entire range from one end to the other end of the inner edge of said thermally sealed area on the side formed with said contact zone in the direction along parallel to a side of the electric device element.

4. (previously presented): The film covered electric device according to claim 2, wherein said contact zone has a width which continuously or discontinuously varies such that the width is largest at the center in the range from one end to the other end of the inner edge of said thermally sealed area on the side formed with said contact zone.

5. (previously presented): The film covered electric device according to claim 1, wherein said contact zone is formed along all sides of said casing film from which said leads are not extended.

6. (previously presented): The film covered electric device according to claim 1, wherein said cup area is formed on both surfaces of the film perpendicular to the thickness direction of said electric device element.

7. (previously presented): The film covered electric device according to claim 1, wherein said contact zone has a width of 0.5 mm or more.

8. (original): The film covered electric device according to claim 1, wherein said electric device element has a thickness of 6 mm or more.

9. (original): The film covered electric device according to claim 1, wherein said electric device element is a chemical cell element or a capacitor element.

10. (currently amended): A method of manufacturing a film covered electric device, comprising the steps of:

wrapping a casing film comprising a thermally sealable resin layer around an electric device element to which a positive pole lead and a negative pole lead are connected such that the leads extend from at least one side of the film;

pressing and heating opposing surfaces of the casing film at peripheral sides of said casing film with a thermal sealing head to thermally seal said electric device element within said casing film, wherein at least the last one side of the peripheral sides is thermally sealed in a reduced pressure atmosphere; and

returning surroundings of said casing film which seals said electric device element into an atmospheric pressure,

wherein at least one of the sides of the film having a thermally sealed area from which said leads are not extended is sealed by applying pressure to said casing film with the thermal sealing head at a position spaced apart by 2 mm or more from said electric device element,

wherein at least one of the sides of said casing film having a thermally sealed area, from which said leads are not extended, is formed with a contact zone between the thermally sealed area and the electric device element, in which opposing surfaces of the casing film are directly opposing without intervention of said electric device element are in contact with each other without being thermally sealed, and

an angle formed by the surfaces of the casing film opposing each other in the contact zone is substantially held at substantially zero degrees at a root of the thermally sealed area.

11. (previously presented): The film covered electric device according to claim 1, wherein the casing film further comprises a metal layer laminated to the thermally sealable resin layer, such that the resin layer is the innermost layer of the film prior to being thermally sealed.

12. (previously presented): The film covered electric device according to claim 1, wherein the contact zone is formed between the thermally sealed area and the cup area.

13. (previously presented): The film covered electric device according to claim 1, wherein the opposing surfaces of the casing film in the contact zone are substantially parallel at an edge of the cup area.

14. (currently amended): The film covered electric device according to claim 1, wherein  
the casing film comprises two opposing easing-laminate films sandwiching the electric device  
element between them.